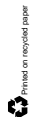


**Representative
Patricia "Pat" Scott**

P.O. Box 40600
414 Legislative Building
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Survey Results



BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington State
Department of Printing

Rep. Pat Scott

38th District

Committees:

- Government Administration
Ranking Minority Member
- Transportation
- Rules



Survey Results

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I want to thank everyone who took the time to return the 38th District survey that I mailed out in preparation for the 1998 session of the Legislature. To be the most effective public servant I can be, I need to know how you feel about the critical issues facing our region and our state.

By adding the results of the survey to what I've heard during the countless face-to-face meetings I've been fortunate to have with many of you during the past few months, I feel well-prepared to be your voice in Olympia during the session that began January 12.

This newsletter summarizes the responses to the survey. (When the numbers don't add up to 100 percent, it's because some respondents expressed no opinion.) Again, thanks for participating and, as always, please contact me by phone, fax, mail or e-mail if I can be of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Pat Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patricia "Pat" Scott

Office phone: (360) 786-7840

E-mail: scott_pa@leg.wa.gov

Toll-free legislative hotline:

1-800-562-6000

TDD (for hearing impaired):

1-800-635-9993

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Transportation

Highway congestion is a daily reality for all of us here in Snohomish County, with a negative impact on our quality of life, our economy and our environment. The transportation budget passed by the 1997 Legislature was bitterly disappointing and, I believe, shortsighted. As a result of the Legislature's failure to come to a consensus, the transportation crisis we were faced with last year has only worsened.



My survey asked, "Should the Legislature increase transportation funding in an effort to pay for the estimated \$2 billion highway construction backlog?" Of those who had opinions, 65 percent of you said "yes"; 22 percent said "no." Responses to the follow-up question on the advisability of a gasoline-tax increase were split exactly 50-50.

As for alternate transportation methods, such as light rail, busses, and bikes, 73 percent said the state should emphasize these alternatives, and 15 percent disagreed.

Education

In terms of inflation-adjusted dollars, state funding for K-12 public education has been steadily falling since 1993. According to results of last year's standardized testing of fourth-grade students, performance has fallen as well. The survey asked, "Do you think the recent fourth-grade test scores show that we need to recommit ourselves to further education reform?"

Almost 80 percent voted "yes."

Budget and Taxes

Washington is in a unique position this year, with a budget surplus projected to be in the vicinity of \$830 million. Good stewardship dictates that legislators set aside a rainy-day reserve of about \$500 million, to guard against hardships created by future economic downturns. One of our major responsibilities this year will be to agree on how the remaining surplus should be applied.

In light of this, my survey asked, "Should lawmakers spend up to \$150 million of the surplus to meet critical demands in school construction, college and university enrollments, and criminal justice funding?" About three out of five said "yes."

I was very interested in responses to the follow-up question, and I hope my fellow legislators will take notice. That question was, "If lawmakers were to approve additional tax relief this year, what tax should we target?" The results:

Property Tax:	41 percent
Sales Tax:	26 percent
Motor Vehicle:	19 percent
Business & Occupation:	14 percent

I find this very instructive, in light of the fact that about four out of every five dollars of the \$1.4 billion in tax breaks approved during the last three years have gone to business, with barely a dollar winding up in the pockets of ordinary families. Now that we have rolled business taxes back to the level they stood at in 1993, my hope is that the Legislature will heed your wishes and begin to provide genuine tax relief for the working families who need and deserve it most.

Law and Justice

While partisan issues frequently cause deep splits in the Washington legislature, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have cooperated to pass recent laws to fight youth violence, drug crimes, sex predators and crimes involving illegal firearms. I expect the same kind of bipartisan spirit to prevail in 1998 as we search for ways to combat the plague of alcohol-related traffic accidents.

Concerning one solution that is certain to be discussed, I asked, "Should we require convicted drunk drivers to install breathalyzer 'interlock' devices on their cars that lock up the car if the driver has been drinking?" Two-thirds of you said "yes." I understand that those voting "no" were not coming out in favor of drunk driving, only opposing this particular measure. From all of you, I invite your input as we seek effective, realistic solutions to this growing menace.

Health Care

At a time when an aging population, a new baby boom and an increasingly dangerous world make health care more important than ever, fewer and fewer families receive health insurance through the workplace. Many have no insurance at all, and far more are underinsured. The final question on the survey asked, "Should all managed-care providers (HMOs) be required to offer a standard set of health-care benefits at an affordable price?"

Sixty-eight percent said "yes," with just under 15 percent saying "no." This is a significant majority, and I'll carry this information into the health-care debate that is inevitable during the 1998 session.

Again, I appreciate all of the responses, and I particularly want to thank those who provided individual comments on various topics. There were far more comments provided than I could summarize in a short newsletter, but I assure you I have noted them all, and I invite more.

These issues are only a few that we'll be addressing in Olympia this year. Higher education, economic development, workforce training, affirmative action, watershed issues and more are important areas that will demand our attention. I'll be sending out a full session report in the spring. In the meantime, my door is open, and I appreciate the privilege of serving as your representative.

Rep. Pat Scott